

new country in the desert where courageous trailblazers were founding a democratic nation in their historic homeland. As a little girl, I was drawn to the stories of turning sand dunes to orange groves, draining swamps to create farmland, and creating cities where before there had been none.

And, with their stories, the Sobeloffs brought me a ring, which I just adored. It helped create an everlasting bond for me with Israel.

Our shared history and ideals unite us in the challenging present. For this reason, America's commitment to Israel's security is unshakable.

Israel faces existential threats that are also threats to America. We must track down terrorists at their sources; to protect our citizens, homes and businesses. We must counter the terrorists' vision of apocalypse and despair with our own clear pathway toward hope and dignity. We must do this with strength but also with wisdom.

Together, we must make sure that no more rockets rain down on Israel from Lebanon in the north. We must ensure a future in which parents can send their children to school and families can venture to markets without fear.

It has been almost nine months since Hezbollah's unprovoked attack on Israel. Yet, Hezbollah continues to violate the U.N. resolution that set conditions to end the violence. The 10,000 U.N. troops must be successful in preventing the shipments of weapons and supplies allowing Hezbollah to rearm. International forces in Lebanon must implement the U.N. resolution effectively.

Hezbollah must be disarmed.

And together, we must have a simple message for Tehran, whose support of Hezbollah is well known. Iran must not be allowed to have a nuclear weapon. The time to leverage all our power is now, and the way to do it is through diplomacy—with stronger sanctions and smarter policy choices.

Under Chairman Tom Lantos' leadership, the U.S. Congress is moving to put additional pressure on Iran by expanding and tightening our sanctions regime. I am certain that our Administration will use all of its influence with Security Council members and states in the region to see that they do the same.

Iran is not just an Israeli problem or a regional problem. Iran is a problem for the world.

In Iraq, we must move the war beyond the unstable status quo because instability in Iraq serves only the interests of our enemies.

We in Congress have a particular responsibility to make it clear that peace in Iraq must come first and foremost from the political choices of Iraqis. Even a military with the capabilities of the United States cannot create political consensus where none exists.

We in Congress will do everything in our power to seek a policy that makes the United States and our friends safer and the region more stable by sharing the responsibility for Iraq's stability with Iraqis and their neighbors.

Together, we must look to the future.

Israeli democracy is one of the cornerstones of a more stable and democratic Middle East. But that hopeful vision begins with a hard recognition: we all know that we cannot have peace without security, but we also cannot have security without peace.

I am concerned that some of those in the new Palestinian government remain committed to the destruction of Israel.

But I believe that the majority of Israelis, Palestinians, and Americans share our commitment to a future for Israel and the Palestinian people living side by side in peace and security.

Talking with responsible Palestinian partners is a wise investment in Israel's future.

I know all of my Congressional colleagues join me in welcoming the agreement announced by Secretary Rice that Prime Minister Olmert and Palestinian Authority President Abbas will meet regularly.

The United States, as Israel's trusted friend and ally, has an irreplaceable role to play in achieving a lasting peace. The United States must have sustained high level engagement in the region to bring us closer to the day we all long for—when the entire Palestinian government is ready for peace.

Our efforts toward peace are part of a rich web of ties between our nations, ties that make not just the desert but a generation bloom.

Americans and Israelis are pioneers and visionaries—our nations were built by people for whom obstacles like oceans, mountains, and deserts were the journey's beginning, not its end.

Israeli expertise and technology are helping protect cities and airports across America. Israeli medical technology saves the lives of American soldiers on the battlefield. Americans with reflux disease are diagnosed by a camera-in-a-pill developed here.

And American leaders in technology and biotechnology are exchanging their expertise in the global market with Israeli entrepreneurs with stunning results.

But I believe we can and will do more to build even stronger Israeli-American partnership for innovation in areas like alternative energy that are crucial to the future of both our countries.

From the negotiating table to the operating table, from the joy of a little girl's ring to the sadness of a missing soldier's dog tags, we find proofs of our deep friendship in the most unexpected places.

Another one of these places is outside Haifa, where there is a soccer stadium that many of you know as Kiryat Haim. I understand that it has seen better days, but it is used by children everyday and has a special place in the hearts of many Israelis. Older Israelis remember its glory days hosting top Haifa teams. Thousands of younger Israelis themselves learned to play there or follow the careers of star players, Jews and Arabs alike, who got their start there.

That stadium has a place in my heart as well. In 1968, it was named for my brother Thomas D'Alessandro, who, as mayor of Baltimore, carried on my father's support of Israel.

It is a great source of pride to our family that our name is shared with such a beloved Israeli institution. It is one of the reasons it is easy for me to represent America's love for the people of Israel.

Tonight I thank you for the warmth of your hospitality and I applaud you for the example of your courage.

Madam Speaker, please accept my deepest appreciation for this opportunity to express America's commitment to Israel. This occasion is one of the great joys of my life.

America and Israel share a common history—nations founded to be beacons of democracy, forged by pioneers, fulfilled by immigrants. We share a common future—as entrepreneurs and innovators, building the kind of world that we dream of for our children's children. And we share a common cause—a safe and secure Israel living in peace with her neighbors. Let us join together to recommit ourselves to the best of our heritage, and together look to the future.

CONGRATULATING THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE HOUSE FELLOWS PROGRAM

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the participants of the House Fellows Program on the completion of their weeklong program. As an initiative of the Office of the Historian, this has been a unique opportunity for a select group of secondary education teachers of American history and government.

This week-long workshop is designed to help educators improve the knowledge and understanding of the "People's House." One of the goals of the program is to develop curricular materials on the history and practice of the House for use in schools. Each Fellow will prepare his or her brief lesson plan on a Congressional topic of their choosing, and these plans will become part of a teaching resource database on the House.

During the school year following their participation in the House Fellows Program, each Fellow will have the responsibility to present their experiences and lesson plans to at least one in-service institute for teachers of history and government.

Over the next 5 years, in selecting a teacher from every congressional district, the House Fellows Program will be able to impact over 10,000 high school teachers, providing an inside account of how the House of Representatives functions, energizing thousands of students to become informed and active citizens.

I had the honor of meeting the Fellows last night and know that all Members will join me in congratulating the following teachers who have successfully participated in this week's program:

Mr. Frank Coburn, Red Bird Mission School, Beverly, Kentucky (KY05, Rogers); Ms. Jennifer Collier, Mt. Diablo High School, Concord, California (CA07, Miller); Ms. Deborah Hejl, Fishers High School, Fishers, Indiana (IN05, Burton); Mr. Paul Hodges, PikeView High School, Mercer County, West Virginia (WV03, Rahall); Mr. Rick Kelm, Ripon High School, Ripon, Wisconsin (WI06, Petri); Ms. Tisha Menchhofer, Lakota East High School, Liberty Township, Ohio (OH08, Boehner); Mr. Christopher Lazarski, Wauwatosa West High School, Wauwatosa, Wisconsin (WI05, Sensenbrenner); Mr. Christopher Swanson, Cloquet Senior High School, Cloquet, Minnesota (MN08, Oberstar); Ms. Robin Wanosky, Weston High School, Weston, Massachusetts (MA07, Markey); Ms. Erin Wigginton, Pulaski County High School, Dublin, Virginia (VA09, Boucher).

As many of my colleagues already know, the first bill I sponsored upon becoming a Member of Congress in 1999 was the History of the House Awareness and Preservation Act, which directed the Librarian of Congress to oversee the writing of a history of the House of Representatives. Once this bill was signed into law (P.L. 106–99), the Librarian of Congress very wisely chose the eminent historian and author, Dr. Robert V. Remini, to write the history, which was published in 2006 under the title of *The House*. The project was